Discussion with J & K Government

2461. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had convened a meeting in 31st March, 2003 with the Jammu and Kashmir Government to discuss various issues;

(b) if so, whether this included security scenario and implications of the various policies of the State Government in the wake of Nadimarg massacre; and

(c) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. High Level Meeting had been convened under the Chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister on March 31, 2003.

The meeting considered assessment of the security situation in J&K and likely terrorism-related trends in the near future. Steps to be taken to counter terrorism were also discussed in detail and it was agreed that the Union and State Government would continue to function in complete harmony and coordination on all security-related matters pertaining to J & K. It was also decided to constitute a Special Group, pursuant to the decision taken in the Meeting, under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary (J&K), MHA to review existing macro-strategies of the Security Forces and intelligence agencies in J&K and to suggest appropriate strategies to be followed to counter terrorism in J&K.

The Group, which included representatives from army, Government of J&K, Central Para Military Forces, intelligence agencies and MHA, has submitted its report to Government on 30.6.2003.

Requirement of sniffer dogs in the Country

†2462. PROF. R.B.S. VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sniffer dogs in the country at present, State-wise;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a State-wise need for more dogs in the country;

(c) if so, whether Government have fixed any time-limit to meet the requirements; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total amount spent by Government for purchasing sniffer dogs so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMl): (a) and (b) Centra! Government does not maintain State-wise data of sniffer dogs as this is a matter concerning State Government. It is for the State Governments to assess about the requirement of sniffer dogs and to procure those accordingly.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Since sniffer dogs are important tools for investigation, explosive detection etc., funds are allocated for strengthening/raising dog squads under the Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces as per the requirement projected by the State Governments in their plans.

Sniffer dogs are procured by the Central Para Military Forces also. The National Training Centre for Dogs, Tekanpur under the Border Security Force (BSF) has been declared as a Centre of Excellence by the Central Government.

Amendment of Commission of Inquiry Act

2463. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Commission of Inquiry Act needs amendments so as to provide mode of appointment of Inquiry Commission and its terms of reference to inspire confidence in its independence and make its findings and recommendations public;

(b) if so, by when the Commission of Inquiry Bill will be introduced; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) be negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMl): (a) Section 3(1) of the Commissions of inquiry Act,